

ON UNIFICATION BY KOLLA VENKAIAH VISAKHAPAMAM

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The unanimous decision (*Frontier*, July 13, 1974) of two CPI(ML) factions in West Bengal for the unification of the party and revolutionary forces in the country is an important step in the right direction.

The West Bengal comrades have analysed the merits and demerits of the CPI(ML) and correctly stated that the formation of the party, and the capture of the revolutionary centre by Indian revolutionaries ousting the revisionists is a qualitative leap. While the bulk of the leadership of the party betrayed the cause of revolution; only cadres at the State and mainly the district level were faced with the task of heading the movement. The 9th Party Congress was held in a critical situation and important decisions were taken that have to be analysed and reviewed in the light of our past experiences.

The West Bengal comrades have pinpointed left-sectarian deviation as the main cause of the setback. Sectarianism of either type haunted the communist movement for a pretty long time.

Ours is a vast country with a long heritage and unique features of its own, like the caste system, and equally powerful nationalities with their own languages and culture which are generally reflected in the political and ideological fields. The application of Marxism-Leninism to Indian conditions has proved to be a testing task. The Indian Marxist-Leninists have to continue their efforts to meet this challenge establishing the hegemony of the working class in rural areas in cooperation with the poor and the landless.

All those who believe in Marxism-Leninism Mao Tse-tung Thought, whatever may be their difference on certain questions of policy, accept, even today, Naxalbari as a turning point in the history of the revolutionary movement in the country. The Naxalbari peasant struggle not only helped to intensify the ideological struggle against modern revisionism and its Indian variant but also inspired and released a new wave of peasant armed struggles in the country such as Srikakulam, Lakhimpur Kheri Mushari etc., during 1967-68 and 1968-69. Marxist-Leninists have to concretely, analyse the causes of the setback of these peasant struggles which reached the stage of armed struggle, so as to assess the essence of the deviation which had taken a left-sectarian form. The West Bengal comrades have correctly upheld the need to continue the ideological struggle for a correct line in the united framework and the possibility of keeping all the differences at the level of inner-party struggle among Marxist-Leninists.

It is very correct to remind us that from the very beginning one of the defects of the CPI(ML) was that it could not unite different revolutionary groups though it was possible to do so. It is also correct to suggest the ways and means to rectifying this defect. I hope the Marxist-Leninists will ask the central leaders to work for uniting

and rebuilding the party and for shunning sectarianism of all shades, It is for the central committee comrades to start discussions among themselves and initiate the process of unification and discharge their full responsibility to the party and the people. No doubt, a self-critical attitude towards mistakes on the part of leading comrades not only inspires confidence in themselves but also instils the same spirit among the party ranks.

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